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POPLEY MATTERS

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October 2005

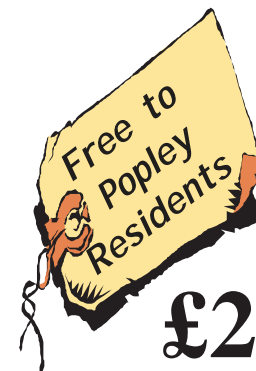
Issue 44



**Popley Matters has
now reached the
21st century with
it's own Website
Read all about it on
page 1**

www.popleymatters.org.uk

Distribution of Over 3,500



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Message From the Editor:- Another month has gone by and as you can read in the magazine lots of things have been happening in Popley. The travellers left and left mountains of rubbish 22 tons. Yes 22 tons of rubbish the tax payer has to pay and that's not all I went over and found nearly half as much again in the copse.

There were some great events too, the Art for Schools on page 13, the quiz night at Popley Fields with the fire service, they also did a "Ground Force" type event in the grounds of Popley Fields see page 4. There was a coffee morning at Melrose Hall in aid of the cancer ward in our hospital, read how much they made on page 10. The first meeting to get volunteers to help organize the Christmas Show met in John Hunt School, see what we will be doing and see if you can help on page 16. It was the 10th Anniversary of Magnolia Court, Paul Iris and I joined many others to help to celebrate. Another really pleasant event was the "Josh Appeal" where a lot of money was raised to help this young man realize his dream on page 19. The birth of our own website read about it on the page opposite.

The outline planning applications made by Sentinel Housing Group for the scheme to redevelop the Longfellow Parade area for new housing and to provide shops on an alternative site have been approved by the Borough Council. This means that the principle of the development is acceptable, there are but there are still many detailed issues to sort out, including the precise location, layout and appearance of the new houses. These issues will be taken forward in full consultation with local residents and other interested parties. The outline planning permissions will help support a bid for funding for the proposals from the Housing Corporation. Unfortunately the outcome of the bid will not be known for many months and the future progress of the scheme will depend on the success of this bid. Local people will be kept fully informed of progress.

To the person that sent me the torn out pages of the Matters with the spelling mistakes 7 of them I humble myself to you. I left school at 15 with no qualifications and worked 28 years as a hospital cleaner so I have never been an academic, so you see you will get misspelt words, but we do need proof readers and I would truly love you to volunteer to help with the proof reading call me on 819924. We need people to deliver the magazine we have 3700 every month to put in every door. *Jane Frankum Editor*

Hits on Popley.matters.org.uk website for month of September 559

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:- Popley Matters, 405 Abbey Road, Basingstoke. RG24 9EL email editor@popleymatters.org.uk The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team. Or the members of the committee of Popley Forum/Matters.

Editorial Team:- Editor Jane Frankum; Sub-Editor Paul Frankum; Chair Terry Jones; Vice Chair Ron Rowe; Secretary Alison Walker; Treasurer Kevin Walker; Distribution Iris King; Committee Members Louise Tuck, Kate Lomas; Administrator Sandra Cass;

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Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor; A few weeks ago, the Tuesday after the Bank holiday, at the un-Godly hour of 8.15 am, I received a phone call from a very distressed neighbour. She couldn't breathe and had pains in her chest and back. I rushed round and once I managed to get her comfortable in a chair I phoned 999 and requested an ambulance. The man I spoke to gave me advice as to what to do and said help was on it's way. A mere four minutes later a Para-med arrived and took control of the situation. Within another minute the ambulance arrived and the two female staff did all the tests. Fortunately, the prompt action of all involved meant my neighbour didn't have to go to hospital and has now made a full recovery. I would like to express our sincere thanks to the NHS for the excellent service.

Editors reply; It is great to know that we have a National Health service that is the envy of many other countries. My aunt in Canada collapsed and when the ambulance arrived they would not take her till they had checked she had insurance to pay for her care. it is also comforting to know that there are such fantastic neighbours in our community of Popley.

Dear Editor; Today a new magazine came in my door called Popley Directory. First the front cover looks very like Popley Matters that has been delivered in Popley for nearly fourteen years, secondly as I can recall Popley Matters is a non profit organisation and not a business for profit the customers that advertisers pay to keep this great magazine going and it is full of local news now that this new one is out that will we see the end of Popley Matters?

I for one would rather look at the community activities via Popley Matters rather than what is almost all advertising to my mind Popley Directory is just more junk for my rubbish bin I can pick up the yellow pages and get the phone numbers if I want a directory this is just extra junk mail I can do with out. Anne and George

Editors reply; I sincerely hope that Popley Matters will survive, as you say in your letter we are the genuine and original community magazine started by a group of residents nearly 14 years ago.

We deliver 3700 to every house in Popley every month. Our advertisers live, work or have local connections to Popley. Popley Matters is entirely voluntarily run, not run for profit as a business. The articles are written by the community of and for Popley.

The advertisers are the reason we can write the magazine for you the cost is covered by their fees.

Delivering Popley Matters is the hardest task and we need some more people to volunteer, no payment just our heartfelt thanks call Iris King on 411113

Editors Note We look forward to reading your letters on all sorts of subjects.

We do not print your name or address if you wish us not to but of course we can not accept letters that are sent anonymously.

**Please send your letters to :
The Editor, Popley Matters,
405 Abbey Rd, RG24 9EL or
email:
editor@popleymatters.org.uk**



www.popleymatters.org.uk

Popley Matters starts a new era and is dragging itself into the 21st century we have a web site, it is not finished by a long way and there is still lots to add but we felt that we would "go live" and then the readers can send us information like; useful telephones numbers, Websites, Events and Organizations. Constructive criticisms welcome, together we can make it as informative and as useful as possible. Not only was it a first for Popley Matters it is a first for Paul Frankum his first effort of writing a website and many hours, days and weeks of searching for information, phone numbers and web hosting, with a special Thanks goes out to PC Martin (Advert on Page 5) who helped us to find a good webhoster.

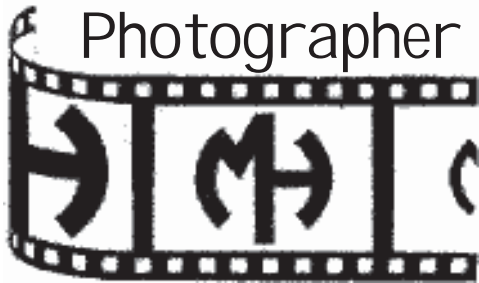
The next hurdle is the development of the news section, a more friendly and interesting Home page, increasing the amount of photos in our photo gallery of history and current events in Popley. If you have a photo that you think we may be interested in we can scan it and give you back your original.

We also have a message board and there are already some controversial postings. Of course the content is not always what we agree with, but as long as it does accord with the policy on the website we will look forward to hearing from you on line.

We will be changing the colour of the site to match the current magazine cover colour, let us know if you like this idea or not.

To pass on information and comments Email:
webmaster@popleymatters.org.uk
or editor@popleymatters.org.uk

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Do you know a Funky Monkey?

Having become a mom for the first time and not knowing anyone in the Popley area, I was wondering where to take my new son and how I was going to meet some new people to keep me sane!!

When my son was 5 weeks old we began attending Rhymetime at Shakespeare Road Surgery but unfortunately this closed. So where should I go now?

Just before Rhymetime finished, the members all agreed we needed somewhere to meet, for the children to play with some different toys, for us to have a coffee, maybe have a nursery rhyme sing-along. But we couldn't find anywhere that did everything we wanted it to do - so we decided to start our own group. First things first, what should we call ourselves? After many hours of thought but hearing my friends suggestion once the committee knew it had to be Funky Monkeys!!!!

So if you know a Funky Monkey who enjoys playing games and singing songs or their parent/guardian who needs a coffee and a chat, please join us at Funky Monkeys, every Friday at 10:30 until 12 noon at St. Gabriel's church, Tewkesbury Close, Popley, Basingstoke. All for only £1 per family. *Polly Cookson 01256 411122*

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			OCTOBER			
			Adult	OAP	Child	EX CL
Sat 1	0530	Adinkerke & Calais Cite Europe *inc‡	£29.00	£27.50	£19.25	£26.00
Sun 2	0900	New Forest Tour	£16.00	£15.25	£10.50	£14.50
Sat 8	0830	Worcester	£18.00	£17.00	£12.00	£16.25
Sun 9	0830	Weymouth	£17.00	£16.25	£11.25	£15.25
Sat 15	0830	Chichester	£15.00	£14.25	£10.00	£13.50
Sun 16	0900	Exbury Gardens (Autumn tints) *inc (coach only)	£21.50 £12.00	£20.50 £11.00	£14.25 £ 7.00	£19.50 £10.00
Sat 22	0830	Weston-super-Mare	£17.00	£16.25	£11.25	£15.25
Sun 23	0830	Mystery tour	£17.50	£16.75	£11.50	£15.75
Wed 26	0830	Chichester (Market Day)	£15.50	£14.75	£10.25	£14.00
Fri 28	0900	Kingston-upon-Thames (shops)	£12.00	£11.50	£ 8.00	£10.75
Sat 29	0900	Lymington	£12.00	£11.50	£ 8.00	£10.75
Sun 30	0830	Chilterns Tour	£16.50	£15.75	£11.00	£15.00
			NOVEMBER			
Sat 5	0830	Bluewate	£17.00	£16.25	£11.25	£15.25
Sun 6	0830	Wealden Tour	£17.00	£16.25	£11.25	£15.25
Sat 12	0900	Salisbury	£12.00	£11.50	£ 8.00	£10.75
Sun 13	0830	Brighton	£17.00	£16.25	£11.25	£15.25
Sat 19	0900	Milton Keynes (shopper)	£17.00	£16.25	£11.25	£15.25
Sun 20	0830	Dorset tour	£17.00	£16.25	£11.25	£15.25
Sat 26	0530	Adinkerke & Calais Cite Europe *inc ‡	£29.00	£27.50	£19.25	£26.00
Sun 27	0830	Mystery Tour	£17.00	£16.25	£11.25	£15.25

‡ on all trips abroad pickup are restricted to our depot in oakley. Basingstoke Churchill Way
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Full details and bookings available at the tourist information centre, Willis museum. Telephone 817618



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Personnel from Green Watch recently organised a pool competition at the Popley Fields Community Centre, that raised funds to help purchase a pool table for the centre. A quiz night in July, that included a BBQ was a great success and was enjoyed by all who attended. A further quiz night is planned for the 23rd September.

The BBQ area at Popley Fields received a Ground Force style makeover, when a group of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Managers competed against colleagues from the south of the county in carrying out community improvement projects. The Group Manager from Basingstoke and Deane, Colin Miller, led the team from the north, and the concerted efforts of his team secured the win for his team.

Is your kitchen safe? Do you know what precautions to take to prevent a fire happening?

A common cause of fires in the kitchen, is the Chip Pan!

If you are using a deep pan for frying you should always follow this simple advice,

- Always make sure the food is dry before you put it into the hot oil.
- Never fill the pan more than one third full of oil.

If the oil starts to smoke, it is too hot. Turn off the heat and leave it to cool down. If possible, use a thermostatically controlled deep fat fryer as they can't overheat.

REMEMBER THE ELECTRIC BLANKET CHECKS IN OCTOBER?

In conjunction with Hampshire County Council Trading Standards Department, electric blanket testing will be carried out at Popley Fields Community Centre on FRIDAY 14th OCTOBER between 8am and 5pm. To book an appointment telephone: 01329 316183.

**For Further information please contact
Community Fire Safety
Tel 023 8062 6809 or email.**

community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk

Diaries from the Old Codger

Well time fly's each month now, so I am back on the beast talking to you again. Okay I know I can talk but this month I want to take you back in time to when I was a small boy, and yes I was young once. This month's story came to me when I saw the state the gypsies left the site by the end of Abbey Road. What are these people like, why damage and destroy countryside as nice as this. You often see small children and their mums and dads over there, not lately and it is going to cost us tax payers thousands of pounds to clear up after them. I feel the farmer I read about the other week has got it right. The council should hire from a local farmer a muck spreader and start doing the field where the encampment is set up. If they don't want every thing covered in farm manure they will soon shift off the land.

Right, let's get back to this months diary as I have said when I was a small boy I lived in a road called The Glade, it went down to a valley up the other side on top of the downs was Kenley Aerodrome. The houses run along the valley for a bit then it was open fields and woodland. Every year in the summer a group of about twenty Romany's turned up and encamped in this area away from all the houses. Their caravans were all horse drawn and they would turn out the horses to graze. No crime was committed by them that I ever knew of. The local bobby went to see them once a week and us kids would go down and play with theirs. The adults would be welcomed to sit and have drinks by the camp fires, the women would sell cloths pegs and bits and bobs they made around the area. These Romany's would stay till winter then off they would go. The encampment was spotless; you would never have any reason to think they were there. What lovely people they were and you would welcome them every year they came back. Now the disgusting mess these so called gypsies leave the community to deal with and crime figures when they are in the area no wonder every one is up in arms about them. In Ireland they have passed a law stopping this kind of thing going on and they laugh at us for letting it go on. We now have gypsy liaison officers, rubbish they are not true gypsies they are a blight on our society that ruin local community lives when or where they turn up. We have to abide by human rights they tell us but what about our human rights? Do we not have any? Is it only them that have this law? Well, as you can see it may be controversial to some of you but the Old Codger looks back in his diaries and he puts down the feelings he has. You all may have different feelings on this and that is your right but I know I want to see birds, butterflies and the like not trash dumped in our open spaces.

Till next month
THE OLD CODGER

registered local charity serving the Basingstoke & Deane area, in addition to part of Hart and East Hampshire District Council areas.

The centre, based at the Orchard in White Hart Lane, is the main provider of couple counselling in the town with a rapid response to needs of the local community. Counsellors also work in Alton, Bordon & Whitchurch on a sessional basis each week.

What does Relate provide in the Basingstoke & District area?

- Relationship counselling either as an individual or as a couple
- Family Counselling (for families of all shapes and sizes)
- Sexual Problems service
- Divorce counselling
- Relateen (for young people whose parents are separating/step family issues)
- Relate for Parents (an opportunity to discuss issues about the children at the time of separation)
- Relate guides – to view or buy

Working to the Code of Ethics and Practice of the British Association of Counselling & Psychotherapy, all staff are checked through the Criminal Records Bureau.

Relate is the healthy alternative

Relate, the UK's leading organisation for couple and family relationships, has found that Relate intervention is good for the health of couples in troubled relationships. In a recent study of Relate clients 40% of people recorded a significant decrease in visits to the doctor after seeking support.

Of the clients that told us that their relationship difficulties were increasing their use of prescription drugs before coming to us, 74% of those clients said that Relate support had reduced their usage.

Relate has seen a 10% increase in the numbers of people seeking its help in 2004/5, Chief Executive of Relate Angela Sibson said:

“People will know either from their own experience or through that of friends, relatives and colleagues that serious problems in a relationship affect you physically, as well having an emotional strain.

Being unhappy in your relationship can seriously damage your general wellbeing these results, taken from nationwide data, show that in many cases practical support from Relate reduces visits to the GP and cuts the use of prescription drugs.”

People using services pay towards the cost according to their means (with the exception of young people using the Relateen service). Each year we apply to local authorities for funding to enable a subsidised service to be provided for people on low income or benefits. In the next year Relate Basingstoke & District will raise 65% of its costs from service users.

Our friendly appointments staff will be pleased to answer your queries – just call on 01256 324364 or visit our website on www.relate-basingstoke.org.uk

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Registered Charity No. 282848

Treasure
Isl and
Play Group

Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down, Basingstoke Hampshire RG24 9AE

Mon–Fri 9:15am–11:45am
Mon & Thurs 12:30pm–3:00pm

Councillors Page

The Summer bought the travellers to Popley again with two illegal groups of Travellers. There are no transit camps in Basingstoke and Deane and very few in Hampshire so what attracts the travellers to our area, well unfortunately it is work yes people give them enough work to make it well worthwhile. The evidence was apparent as soon as they left. The encampment on the new school site sold generators as Paul Frankum and I went on the site shortly after they had left. Though there was rubbish left by the 60 caravans on the site they had at least put them into easily removable piles. The Aldermaston Open Space however was nothing short of horrific. It was the worst the council workmen have ever had to clear up. There were bags and bags of clothing with the bags all ripped open. Another of the scams is to leaflet an area saying they are collecting for charity and leave your full bags outside your front door and they will pick them up. I will now only take mine into to a recognised charity shop and I will not leave them outside as that is another method of them stealing. Some residents have taps outside to wash their cars or water the garden, if left on they seem to see this as an invitation to help themselves and for people who are on a water meter their bill will be enormous, I would turn my tap off I pay the bill and the water rates not them it is stealing.

But by far the most mess was from gardening from branches from fir trees to whole tree trunks, bricks, paving slabs and rubble. The gardening was not done in Popley but in other areas. When a resident thinks the price is too good to be true it usually is just that because some one else has to pay and in this case it is every one through Council tax to pay to clear away the mess. There was horse and dog mess in nearly all of the area and food stuffs left for the flies. They had smashed through the padlocks and the height barrier and even over the bunting by the Apollo, there are now whole tree trunks at the entrance and hopefully that will stop them next time. I do not buy anything from the door but if you do please check they are genuine tree works, they have to have a licence and just because they can show you a piece of paper that says they are genuine or it is bankrupt stock remember with computers these days they still may not be for real. If you want work doing ask your family and friends to recommend someone.

Popley West Borough Councillor & Popley County Councillor Jane Frankum
Page 6



Chineham Park Pre-school report

We were pleased to welcome back children from last term, and also to say hello to many new children who have joined us. Many of them have purchased our new uniform t-shirts and sweatshirts - and very smart they look too!

This term we have a Harvest topic, where the children will be finding out about crops and food, then next month we will be offering crafts relating to fireworks. We are also busy planning our second Christmas Fayre to raise money for new bikes and outdoor equipment for the children.

Popley people are great and I would like to make that official.

Once again when the word got out that one of our Popley children needed a special wheelchair and equipment, the community came together and started raising funds. There was everything from boot sales, a sponsored auction, quiz night, pool competition in the Popinjay, jumble sale, donation in memory of Patrick O'Brien, Wella goods sale, Fastfare collection and in Sainsbury's Social Club, finishing with a massive raffle in the Popinjay with the first prize of a mountain bike. No I did not win it now there would be a sight. The target was £2,500 for the wheelchair, helmet and special gloves. Josh was there in his new wheelchair to pull out the winning ticket, the bar area was packed with well wishers and ticket number 5 was pulled out. Josh was so excited he offered to do a wheelie but the place was so crowded. Generous you bet there was such a good response that £1000 is left in the bank and it will help other children of Popley.



Picture of Josh with his new equipment

I wish you could all have been there to see the joy shining out of Josh's face. Well done again Popley. Cllr Paul Frankum

Dear Friends

WHAT A WEEK!!! In the past week I managed to download a virus onto my PC which killed it, the kettle blew up causing a power cut in the house, our relatively new fridge stopped working, our ageing washing machine finally gave up the ghost, my recently acquired mobile phone locked me out, and the car failed its MOT – if it could go wrong it did!

Did I get stressed about all this? There was a time when the accumulated effect of all these things going wrong would have been enough to drive me (and any sane person) to drink – but not this time! I determined that I would not let these minor catastrophes get to me – sure they're a pain – it's difficult managing without a fridge, a washing machine, a mobile phone or a car these days. But as I thought through the situation I began to realise that we are so very dependent on machines and technology for our modern lifestyles; but is that all that life is about? Unceasing worry about material things that don't really matter rather than what's really important!

So what is really important – YOU ARE! Sadly, all too often we don't realise the immense value of relationships until they're gone, until a tragedy strikes like sudden severe illness, homelessness, redundancy, or the death of someone close to us.

The Bible says “we brought nothing into the world, and we take nothing out..” and Jesus himself said “do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy ... look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns and yet your heavenly Father feeds them, are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?”

It's amazing how quickly we can adjust to different situations – the PC can be rebuilt, the fridge will get fixed (probably), the washing machine can be replaced, as can the car and the kettle. What is irreplaceable are my relationships with those around me whom I love and most importantly my relationship with God who is my Creator and Redeemer.

Think about it for a minute, what are you really dependent on and what are your priorities? To build up and store away things for the future or to live the abundant life that God wants for you in relationship with him and with those he's given you!

I'm reminded of the lyrics of a song that Matt Redman wrote “when the music fades and all is stripped away, and I simply come, longing just to bring, something that's of worth, that will bless your heart...” Try this – imagine being stripped of all that you think is of worth around you - what's left?

In Christ Arthur Vicar of St Gabriel's

WHAT'S ON AT ST GABRIEL'S!

St Gabriel's is **YOUR** parish church! We're in Tewkesbury close off Popley Way (near the traffic lights). It's a lively, growing church for all age groups. Our services take place at 10.30 on a Sunday morning with Family Communion and JC4Kidz the Children's Club! On the last Sunday of the month we have an All Age Family Service with Baptism.

On the first Sunday of the month we have a simple service of evensong which we hold in the main lounge of Magnolia Court and on the last Sunday of the month we come together for an informal service of worship and praise with the churches on Popley – Melrose Christian fellowship, the New Testament Church of God and a group from St Bede's RC Church.

On Monday mornings 'Babysong' meet in the Hall from 10.00 a.m. – a group for young mums with toddlers. Tuesday evenings from 5.30pm we have Beavers, cubs and Scouts and on Friday mornings from October a new Mums and Toddlers group 'Funky Monkeys' will be starting up.

At the end of October we will be holding our annual **Bereavement Service**. This will take place on Sunday 30th October at 3pm. This is a special service for all those who have lost someone they love and wish to remember, and give thanks for them, whether that loss is in the recent or distant past – all are welcome. We will be serving refreshments after the service in the hall.

If you want to know more about the Christian faith and the life of your parish church then please do call me on 324734 at any time or come along on any Saturday morning between 9.30 and 11.00 am for a chat – I'm usually hanging around the church somewhere.

In Christ

Arthur

Vicar of St Gabriel's, Popley.

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

poplefields@hotmail.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Youth Shelter: The long awaited Youth Shelter has now been finished and it should provide the youngsters of Popley a nice place to hang out without causing too much nuisance to any residents. An art graffiti project is being planned for the inside walls in the next couple of months.

Youth Club: The Youth Club remains very busy but we desperately need any volunteers to enable us to increase the range of activities on offer to the young people. So if you have a couple of hours to spare a week or month, please contact us.

Xmas Tea Dance: A Tea Dance is being held at Popley Fields on Wednesday 24th November from 2pm to 5pm. There is live entertainment and a welcome drink, sandwiches, mince pies and tea and coffee are included. Tickets are available from reception and cost £4 in advance, (£5 on the door). Transport can be provided if booked in advance.

OAP Pantomime Trip: There will be a trip on 6th January to Dick Whittington at the Anvil for the Matinee performance. Transport will be provided. Please call us for more information or to book tickets. These need to be booked well in advance as they go fast!

Salsa Beat: Salsa dance classes have just started every Tuesday from 8.15pm. All ages from 16 upwards are catered for and there are classes for all standards from total beginner upwards. It is a great fun way to exercise and there is no need to bring a partner.

Floodlit Sports: We still have a couple of vacant spaces for this winter for our multi-sports pitch so if you are looking for a venue for your team for all weather training, call us.

Halloween Family Fun Night: This year our fun night will be on Sunday October 30th. There will be free entry to anyone in Fancy Dress and the fun starts at 6pm.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Xmas Bazaar: Saturday 17th December - 10am - 4pm.

Contact Tracy Rogers for information or to pre-book stalls.

Xmas Family Disco: Saturday 17th December - 7.30pm - Finish.

New Years Eve Family Night: Saturday 31st December - 7.30 - Late.



You are warmly invited to
WORSHIP WITH US



at

Popley Fields Community Centre

Carpenters Down

Popley

Basingstoke

Sunday Morning

10:30 am to 12:00 noon

For more information phone:

Graham and Barbara on (01256) 363692

New Testament Church of God

www.basingstoke-new-t.freeserve.co.uk

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a Will?

Do I know whether my
estate is liable to Inheritance
Tax? If I live in the
Basingstoke area and own
my own home it is quite
likely my estate will be
liable.



Have I ensured
that my family
and dependants
are adequately
provided for?

Would I want my
nearest and dearest
to have to cope with
the above after my
death when they are
already dealing with
my loss?

If you have answered No to any of the above let Clarke & Son Solicitors
help put your mind at rest.

Ring Helen Davis for further advice and assistance on (01256) 320555

Help with Christmas Event at Popley Fields

I saw the wardens posters inviting anyone interested in helping to organize the Christmas show, boy has that come round so fast again?. I went to the meeting and there were some fantastic people there all ready to organize something really special. We want the wow factor so that children can remember a magical time at Christmas. The wardens, PC Matt Deery representatives from Popley Fields, residents from all the Popleys, Pastor Phillip Keeble, Mrs Santa Claus and yours truly. The Chronicles of Nania was the suggestion. There then followed an in depth discussion as to what Christmas was and what it meant to most people. Oh dear do we have to be so political and not mention that it is in celebration of Jesus's birthday? All the committee wanted a traditional celebration with the magic of when we were children and some of the fantastic memories we were all recalling. How about a multi national celebration with songs, dance and traditional costumes from ours and other nations, quite a tall order as the wardens were getting together with five other areas and will be doing a show a day. So if there are any volunteers who want to help make it a celebration to remember please get in touch with the wardens on 845508. Jane Frankum

Basingstoke's Bigger Dump

The County Council's forthcoming project to expand and improve the existing Basingstoke Hampshire Waste Recycling Center in Wade Road will begin on Monday 3rd October and will take approximately 5 months to complete.

The site will be able to deal with double the amount at present and will reduce the waiting time.

During the construction phase a temporary site will be operating from within the existing site's container servicing area, because this is a relatively small area a restricted service will operate in terms of the types of waste that can be accepted.

Leaflets have been produced to fully explain the scheme and the restricted service. These are being distributed to customers visiting the site. They are also available at the County Council's Information Centre in Basingstoke and in the reception area of the Borough Council's main offices.

For further information contact Vic Lee at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council 01256 844844 or David Ward, Project Manager,

Waste Management Section, Environment Department, Hampshire County Council.



Scouts on Fire.

Sat 8th October

Base 2000

Carpenters Down

11.30a.m. to 3.30p.m.

Fun for all the family.

Demonstrations by the Fire Brigade, including chip pan fires, simulated car accident and visiting Fire Engines, hopefully we will be including The famous big Bronto Sky lift.

Pioneering demonstration by the Scouts.

Also Refreshments and Bar B Queue, Raffle, Stalls. Bouncy Castle. And loads of other fun things for all the family to do.

All proceeds from the day to be split between the Fire Brigade Benevolent Fund and Basingstoke Air Scouts.

Editors Note It promises to be a great event, I am really looking forward to the BBQ, demonstrations and competitions. Dont miss it I hope to see you all there.



MELROSE HALL NEWS

On behalf of the Coffee Morning, a great big thank you to all who supported the Cancer Charity Morning you helped to raise £101.97p for the cancer ward at our local hospital.

Forthcoming fundraising event is a mammoth Jumble Sale on 29th October from 1pm till 4pm there will be furniture, clothing, Bric-a-Brac, toys and computers. Any more donations would be welcome as it is to raise much needed funds for Neighbourcare.

Our ever popular Christmas Bazaar will be on November 19th from 2pm to 4pm so put it in your diary. We will have affordable gifts for children to buy for Mum/Dad/Grand Parents/Aunts/Uncles/friends and teachers. Reasonable priced Christmas decorations We will also have fun things for children to play with.

Don't forget our Boot Sales at John Hunt of Everest Community School throughout 2005 starting at 9pm.

Calling all youths—look out for the next issue we need your views & ideas.

Help! Help a heartfelt message from your tired but friendly Distribution Manager of Popley Matters do you live in Melrose Walk or Maldive Close, could you deliver some Popley Matters. My old legs will no longer "do stairs", so unless we get volunteers we may not be able to deliver to these areas in the future we also need some volunteers that can cover an area if someone is unable to. Call me Iris King on 411113.

	MORNING	AFTERNOON
MONDAY	9.30 -12PM COFFEE MORNING	7.30 - 10.30 Healing & Holistics
TUESDAY	9.30am - 11.30am TINY ACORNS CHILDMINDERS	4-8.30 PM PETITE SCHOOL OF DANCE OF DANCE
WEDNESDAY	9.30 -11.30 PARENT & TODDLER GROUP 9-45AM-11-30 STOP SMOKING CLINIC	12PM - 2PM OASIS LUNCH CLUB
THURSDAY	9.30-12PM COFFEE MORNING	7PM-8.30PM WEIGHT WATCHERS
FRIDAY	10AM 3PM LODDON ALLIANCE	6.30PM YOUTH CLUB
SATURDAY	9AM -1PM PETITE SCHOOL OF DANCE	
SUNDAY	10AM MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	6.30PM MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

For information on any type of booking call Coo Cook on 01256 420676 for information or booking or Email melrosehall@tiscali.co.uk

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01256 410119

Do you need quality reliable childcare for children between 0-13?

Then why not phone us, we are 4 childminders with 11yrs+ experience we are open from 6.30am-7pm. Based locally we offer a homely, loving environment for children.

We have extensive training in Child Development, Special Needs, First Aid, NVQ3 Qualified Tutor etc. All meals provided are home cooked and nutritious, special diets catered for.

We go on regular outings and provide loads of activities for the children, we have a 17 seater minibus plus two 8 seaters fully insured.

Children have there own playroom lounge and dining room and a large secure garden. We pick up from both Merton schools, Castlehill, Chalkridge and southview schools, also Treasure Island Playgroup.

Please feel free to phone us and arrange a convenient time to bring your kids to visit us.



FREE HAIRDRESSING SERVICES

Models required

We are currently seeking Male & Female models between the age of 14-40 who are interested in having free hairdressing services including the

occasional free products!

For more information please call

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Chairman Terry Jones Trip to Minsk:

Minsk is the capital of Belarus, which is one of the republics of the former USSR. It is the most westerly of the republics being situated just east of Poland.

Just after the Chernobyl disaster the trade union I was an official of, SOGAT '82, had a convalescent home in Rottingdeane. This home was made available, for a period of 6 weeks, to the children who had been subjected to the radio active fallout. Sadly, most of the children who came to Rottingdeane are now dead.

One of my colleagues from Head Office later married one of the Russian interpreters who came with the children, and had lived near Minsk. Due to this link with Minsk when I expressed an interest in going there it was all arranged that I would stay with Ella and Slava. That was ten years ago and I have visited Minsk 15 times to date.

As not many English people visit Minsk I am always invited to their universities to meet the students who are studying English as most of them, including the teachers, have never heard a “native speaker” speak English. I have two girls, who are friends, who I knew as students and now teach English at universities.

As I always stay with a Russian family, not always Ella and Slava, I am very much aware of the difficulties they have. This has resulted in me, while I was still working for the union, raising money and buying medicines for the children with thyroid cancer. The drug they needed was “thyroxine” and, to my amazement, cost £1.05p for 1,000 tablets! The Belarussian State Airline, Belavia, very kindly didn't charge me for the 10 large boxes I took on that trip.

The economic situation has improved over the years that I've been going, but, life is still very hard by our standards. Most people can't afford computers, microwaves or washing machines and I always feel guilty when they lay on lavish dinners that I know they can't really afford. However, it is part of their culture to make guests welcome and feed you to bursting point, not to mention vast quantities of vodka!

I hope to go again in May 2006, so watch this space!



Basingstoke Air Scouts.

A small group from Basingstoke Air Scouts recently attended Summer camp at Lyons Copse, just a few miles north of Fareham. The camp, also attended by many other groups from around the County, included many interesting activities keeping them well busy for the week. Activities included, Raft building, Archery, One day hike, on which they got totally soaked but still had a great time, and many other activities.

This last weekend one brave sole from the group survived a 24-hour Survival camp near Winchester. The weekend included learning to cook without the aid of a microwave or oven. Building their own shelter for the night, no tents allowed! Also covered, Basic First Aid, Fire lighting, and learning to live without the TV for a weekend! oh, and how to get extremely dirty. *Colin, Leader, Basingstoke Air Scouts.*

**John Hunt of Everest
Community School
Parent Group presents:
Family Quiz Nite**



**Monday 17th October 2005
from 7pm in the school hall**

Teams of up to 8 people, children and adults welcome, questions to suit all ages

5 entry per team, bring your own food and drinks Raffle prizes to be won Good evening out for all the family

Also some places still available on the: family line dancing starting Thursday 6th October at 5.45pm and the healthy cooking starting Thursday 6th October at 3.30pm.

Call Suki Binning on 338725 to reserve places.

Chineham Park Primary School

The school was visited by artist, Pauline Pepper and Writer, David Orme as part of Poetry Week, our year 5 & 6 pupils spent some really enjoyable hours listening to David's work and composing a poem, which was then broadcast on Kestral FM. Then Pauline and the children spent time making felt hangers for placing onto the trees in Popley Dell.

The school would also like to ask through the Popley Matters for members of the public not to use our grounds as a short cut from the Reading roundabout. We are proud of our ground and the children have put a lot of work into making them the best in Basingstoke. Please do not ruin their hard work. *Jeanette Warne*

Editors note; Chineham Park school won the first prize in Basingstoke and Bloom this was a real achievement against some very good competitors so the staff and children are very proud of their grounds so please respect their school you would not like it if people walked through your gardens.

Art Projects for Children in Popley

From The Old Codger Well readers I had an invite to Mertom school to see a joint project that is under way with the arts department at the council and Q.M.C. What a great morning I had with them, the project is writing poetry and visual arts, the full story of this will come out soon as I would like to talk to every one when the display is put on show in Popley Dell. In the hall the students were working on a NO I am not going to tell you what it is you will have to see it when the art is put up in the trees. I then went into a class room to see a lot of students writing poetry their imaginations were wonderful as some of them showed me the poems they had been working on. All of this followed by a photo shoot with the gazette and others at the school, Stephen Sheady was as usual full of praise for the schools and the tutors that are conducting this project with all the schools in Popley and Oakridge. The best thing I liked to see was TEAM WORK from these children I think you learn more by doing this as joint projects than sitting at a desk and just writing. I would also like to add to this the teachers especially in the art work they were as messy as the kids and I bet they had just as much fun, well done to them all. may be one day I will go back to the school to see them all as the Old Codger got some funny looks from some of them riding around the school with his head nodding all over the place and sitting down and just talking to them all.